

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY:MJB

APPROVED BY EUR - ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

L:MR. MR. RUSSELL

EUR/P - MR. F. SEIDNER

S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033085

LIMDIS TOSEC 176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS HANDLING OF TURKISH CYPRIOT ANNOUNCEMENT

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS SAM 86970

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR
NOON PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 13:

QUESTION: WHAT COMMENT DO YOU HAVE ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT THE TURKISH SIDE IN CYPRUS HAS DECLARED THE FORMATION
OF THE "FEDERATED TURKISH STATE OF CYPRUS"?

ANSWER: THE USG CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE SOVEREIGNTY,
INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS. WE HAD
HOPED THAT NEITHER SIDE ON CYPRUS WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION
BEFORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS HAD BEEN COMPLETED. TODAY'S
DECLARATION IS BOUND TO MAKE THE COMPLEX NEGOTIATING
SITUATION ON CYPRUS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. IN THIS
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CONNECTION, WE WISH TO RESTATE OUR VIEW THAT THE CLERIDES-

DENKTASH TALKS REPRESENT THE MOST REALISTIC APPROACH FOR RESOLVING THE CRITICAL ISSUES ON THE ISLAND. WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE WHAT INFLUENCE WE HAVE TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS FORUM.

QUESTION: DOES THE USG INTEND TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE?

ANSWER: WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISES. OUR EMBASSY IN NICOSIA IS ACCREDITED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. SINCE LAST JULY WE HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE TURKISH ADMINISTERED SECTION OF THE ISLAND ON A PRAGMATIC, AD HOC BASIS IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES. WE WOULD EXPECT THESE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTINUE ON THE SAME BASIS AS BEFORE.

QUESTION: WERE YOU SURPRISED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING?

ANSWER: FOR MANY WEEKS NOW STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WOULD SOON DECLARE AN AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION. SO IN THAT SENSE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING IS NOT A SURPRISE. NOR DOES THE ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGE THE PRACTICAL SITUATION ON THE GROUND WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A DE FACTO SEPARATION OF ADMINISTRATIONS FOR MANY YEARS. WE HAD NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THE DECLARATION WOULD COME WHEN IT HAS.

QUESTION: WILL THIS TURKISH CYPRIOT STEP LEAD TO THE PARTITION OF CYPRUS?

ANSWER: I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THIS. HOWEVER, IN THIS REGARD IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP, IN MAKING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, INDICATED THAT THIS DECISION WAS AN INTERIM MEASURE PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. INGERSOLL

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